

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-20 are pending in the above-identified patent application. Claim 11 has been canceled. The claims have been objected to because of informalities. The informalities have been addressed. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 10 and 15-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Akai et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0012863) in view of JP-11-338192. Allowed claim 11 has been incorporated in claim 1. Claims 10 and 15-20 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reason.

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida et al. (U.S. Publication 2001/0018158) in view of JP11-338192. Allowed claim 11 has been incorporated in claim 2, thus making claim 2 allowable.

Claims 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,759,732). Claims 3 and 4 have also been amended to include limitation of claim 11. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-9 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. A terminal disclaimer is enclosed herewith. Please remove the rejection.


Claims 12, 13, and 14 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 12, 13 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form. Removal of the objection is requested.

Claims 1-10 and 12-20 are in condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

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Respectfully submitted,


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